25th September 1956]

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The hon. Member is quite right.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : Sir, the Central Government has definitely expressed the view that multi-point tax on food-grains is unjust. May I know the views of our Government on this point, whether this is just or unjust?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The Commission also expressed the view that multi-point tax is preferable to single-point tax and also suggested that the turnover should be fixed as low as Rs. 5,000. As regards tax on foodgrains, they have suggested that in the case of articles which are vital for the ordinary man for his living, it would be better to levy the tax at a single-point and that too a low tax should be fixed. All that, I have already said, will be considered.

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN : Is not 'no tax' on foodgrains perferable to taxing it at either at a single-point or multi-point?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Yes, Sir. 'No tax' campaign is a very much appreciated campaign. But all the same we have to levy some tax. How far we could remove or lessen the burden on foodgrains is a question for detailed examination.

Date for the closure of the South Bank Canal

* 208 Q.—SRI S. RAMALINGAM (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state— 9-20 a.m.

(*a*) whether the Government have received any report from the Collector, Tiruchirappalli, regarding the date for the closure of South Bank Canal;

(*b*) the date proposed by the Collector;

(*c*) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of the Collector; and

(*d*) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 1st to 31st May.

(*c*) The matter is under consideration.

(*d*) Does not arise.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Have the landlords offered the Government to foot the bill required to make the construction of masonry to remove the defect in the difference of dates, which is the bone of contention in the Tiruchirappalli district?

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

[25th September 1956

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : That is a different question. The original question relates to the closure of the South Bank Canal. It is only in the matter of fixing the period, there is a difference of opinion. The Collector had recommended 1st to 31st May but the Chief Engineer had thought that it would be better if it was 15th May to 14th June. My present Secretary of the Public Works Department, who had been Collector, also says that the latter period recommended by the Chief Engineer may be all right but there cannot be any hard and fast rule in respect of this matter. Last year, the canal had been kept open till 3rd June. The whole matter is under consideration and only after that is over, we can take a decision.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : இதைப்பற்றி சரியாக முடிவு எடுப்பதற்கு முன்பு வாய்க்கால் பாசனம் எடுத்துக்கொள்வதற்கு முன்பே ரயத்துக்களையும் கூட்டி அவர்களுடைய யோசனையையும் கலந்துகொண்டு முடிவு செய்வார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : They have made representations. There is no necessity to consult them. They have put forward all points and they are being considered now.

Taking over of the surplus income of mutts and temples

* 209 Q.—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government of Madras have made any representations to the Government of India regarding the taking over of the surplus income from mutts and temples under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Board ; and

(*b*) whether any similar representations have been made regarding Muslim Mosques and Christian Churches?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) & (*b*) No. This Government have not made any such representation to the Government of India.

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : May I know whether this Government will consider the feasibility of taking over the surplus funds of mutts and temples which have amassed so much money and which money can be utilized for useful purposes?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Section 31 of the Act was challenged by certain matadhipatis and the High Court held that section invalid. Therefore, the Commissioner has no powers to divert the surplus income of the religious institutions.

SRI P. G. MANICKAM : அனேக கிறிஸ்துவக் கோயில்களுக்கு ஏராளமான விவசாய நிலங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. இவற்றில் இருந்து கிடைக்கும் வரும்படி சரியாகச் செலவிடப்படுவதில்லை. இந்த நிலங்கள் எல்லாம்